



Dubai, 2 de febrero de 2022

Intervención del Presidente de FEDECOM

Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen

It is real pleasure to be here with you all tonight. Everyone will agree with me when I express my gratitude to our host tonight, President of the SBC, Guillermo Cobelo, not only for organising this exquisite event but also for his commitment to Spanish-Emirati bilateral relations.

I flew from London to join you today. I can't help but be awestruck by the sheer ambition, creativity and sophistication on show here. **There is a bit of irony here tonight. Both, Chambers of Commerce and Universal Expositions were initiatives created in the 19th Century. And we find ourselves in the 21st century here at the Gulf hosted by the Spanish Business Council with our Emirati friends in the context of the Expo of Dubai.** To me, this clearly means that chambers of commerce and world expositions bring the best of each country: trade, investments, culture and people.

Situated on one of the most geo-strategic points on earth, the UAE continues to play a further huge part in global affairs including trade, and also security and diplomacy. Like Spain, this region has a proud trading history. It is therefore no surprise that Dubai was chosen to host the World Expo in 2022 and I hope it can forge a similar lasting legacy to that created by Spain's own Great Exhibition back in 1992.

FEDECOM is the Federation that congregates all the Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia and Oceania. Very few countries in the world have this large network of chambers of commerce. Spanish companies, Spanish institutions and Spanish people, know only too well the ability of the chambers of commerce to generate business opportunities and develop bilateral relations. And more importantly, when trading countries like Dubai interact with a Spanish chamber of commerce they know it is a useful institution made of companies but one that works closely with Spanish institutions.



When we think of the UEA we think of prosperity, a prosperity in which so many Spanish companies have played important roles.

None more so than Técnicas Reunidas, the winning company tonight. Técnicas Reunidas is one of the main international companies in the engineering and construction of petroleum and gas projects, petrochemicals and generation of electricity.

This is a company that is leading the decarbonisation in the region, the use of the cleanest fuels and the reduction of the carbon footprints.

I offer my congratulations to TR and **I will give you 3 reasons why TR received the FEDECOM Award: it is a global company with a Spanish soul, it is leading the efforts for a greener economy and it is committed to the growth and prosperity of the United Arab Emirates.**

Your Excellencies,

Today is the Day of Spain, *el Día de España*, so I hope you will forgive me if I say few words in Spanish.

Quiero agradecer el trabajo abnegado y voluntario de todos los Presidentes de las Cámaras que componen FEDECOM, ejemplo elocuente de servicio a España y a sus empresas en el exterior, que en coordinación con Cámara de España, trabajan por la internacionalización de nuestras empresas. En esta noche emiratí renovamos una vez más, nuestro compromiso de colaboración, ayuda y coordinación con el Gobierno de la Nación y muy en concreto con la Secretaría de Estado de Comercio, los Jefes de Misión Diplomática y las oficinas comerciales. Somos vuestros aliados más leales.

Spain and the Emirates enjoy a very special, and if I may, an intimate relationship. No other European country understands Arab culture like Spain. I offer my warmest possible congratulations to all those remarkable people here in this city who do so much to develop Spanish-Emirati trade and investment relations.